

Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AF-04 ARA-06

EUR-08 OMB-01 OIC-02 ACDA-05 /080 W

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O 290630Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9822

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 4407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CB,NP

SUBJECT: KHMER REPRESENTATION AT 29TH UNGA

REF: A. STATE 233840; B. STATE 220123; C. STATE 230538

1. DCM AND I CALLED ON NEPALESE FOREIGN MINISTER KARKI OCTOBER 28. DRAWING HEAVILY ON PARAS 6 AND 7 REF B AND QUOTING IN EXTENSO FROM TEXT OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, I STRESSED TO KARKI THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE USG ATTACHED TO THIS SUBJECT. IN PARTICULAR I TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR TO HIM THAT THE RESOLUTION WHICH HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY THE ASEAN COUNTRIES AND JAPAN REPRESENTED AN IMPORTANT NEW ELEMENT IN THE SITUATION WHICH DID NOT EXIST LAST YEAR. I NOTED THAT THIS RESOLUTION CALLED FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE INDIGENOUS PARTIES AND THAT IT THEREFORE REPRESENTED AN IMPORTANT AND POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS A PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED SOLUTION OF THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM AND A BROADER PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

2. I TOLD KARKI THAT A VOTE AGAINST THIS RESOLUTION AND IN FAVOR OF THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION SEEKING TO EXPEL THE GOVERNMENT

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OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC WOULD IN EFFECT BE A UN ENDORSEMENT OF

THE PRINCIPLE OF EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A MEMBER STATE. THE U.S. REGARDED THIS AN AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PRECEDENT AND I FELT CERTAIN THAT NEPAL, WITH ITS OWN EXILE POLITICAL PROBLEM, WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE ANY ENDORSEMENT OF THIS PRINCIPLE. I STRESSED THAT THE KHMER REPUBLIC'S JULY 9 OFFER OF UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS WAS A POSITIVE STEP

WHICH NEPAL SHOULD ALSO WELCOME.

3. KARKI, ALTHOUGH HE CONTESTED NONE OF THE ELEMENTS OF OUR APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE, WAS CAUTIOUS IN HIS RESPONSE. HE IMPLIED THAT NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN PENDING A REPORT FROM NEPALESE PERMREP UPAHYAYA IN NEW YORK. HE MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE GON FEELS BOUND BY ITS VOTES LAST YEAR. HE COMMENTED THAT NEPAL COULD NOT CHANGE ITS VOTE EVERY YEAR ON A SUBJECT OF THIS IMPORTANCE. I TRIED TO PERSUADE HIM THAT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION REPRESENTED A NEW ELEMENT IN THE SITUATION WHICH DID NOT EXIST LAST YEAR, AND THAT NEPAL SHOULD THEREFORE NOT FEEL BOUND TO TAKE SAME POSITION AS LAST YEAR. I EXPLAINED THAT A VOTE FOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION WOULD BE A VOTE FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND NEED NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR ANY PARTICULAR PARTY TO THE DISPUTE. I EMPHASIZED THAT IN MY PERSONAL VIEW SUCH A VOTE WOULD BE MORE TRULY NONALIGNED THAN THE PARTISAN POSITION OF MANY SO-CALLED NONALIGNED STATES WHO SOUGHT TO IMPOSE THE SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT ON THE UNITED NATIONS. MANY ASIAN NON-ALIGNED NEIGHBORS OF CAMBODIA HAD INDEED ALREADY COME TO THIS CONCLUSION.

4. COMMENT: AS IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM AND WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, KARKI EVINced NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM IN ACCEPTING OUR POSITION ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION ON ITS MERITS AND HE SEEMS IMPRESSED WITH THE HIGH DEGREE OF SUPPORT BEING GIVEN TO THE FREINDLY RESOLUTION BY CAMBODIA'S ASEAN NEIGHBORS. HE CONTINUES TO SHOW IRRITATION AT THE POLITICS OF THE NONALIGNED GROUP RESULTING IN A "SO-CALLED" NONALIGNED POSITION ON A GIVEN ISSUE BEING DETERMINED BY THE EXTREMIST LEADERS OF THAT GROUP. KARKI, HOWEVER, IS CLEARLY HUNG UP BY THE NEED - NO DOUBT REFLECTING GUIDANCE FROM THE PALACE - FOR NEPAL TO VOTE IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION IT

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TOOK AT THE UNGA LAST YEAR. AS NOTED ABOVE, ON THIS POINT I TOOK THE LINE WITH HIM THAT THIS YEAR'S FREINDLY RESOLUTION, WITH IT S MAJOR THRUST TO GET THE UN BEHIND EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, IS A NEW BALLGAME AND THAT LAST YEAR'S VOTES BY NEPAL THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE LIMITING FACTORS IN DETERMINING ITS POSITION THIS YEAR. PARTICULARLY SINCE KARKI INDICATED THE NEPALESE ARE AWAITING A FURTHER REPORT FROM UPADHYAYA, I BELIEVE IT COULD BE MOST USEFUL IF

USUN WERE TO GET TO UPADHYAYA SOONEST AND, ARMED WITH LAST YEAR'S UNGA RECORD, GIVE HIM THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE ARGUMENTS LEADING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A FUNDAMENTALLY NEW SITUATION NOW EXISTS AND THAT CONSISTENCY WITH NEPAL'S VOTING RECORD AT THE PREVIOUS GA DOES NOT REQUIRE A NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. HOPEFULLY, UPADHYAYA WOULD REFLECT THIS LINE IN HIS REPORT TO KARKI. USUN MAY ALSO WISH TO GO INTO THE PROCEDURAL ASPECT SOF THE PROBLEM WHICH WE HAVE NOT DEALTH WITH IN DETAIL HERE. REQUET THAT USUN ADVISE US IF DISCUSSIONS WITH UPADHYAYA TAKE PLACE.

5. WHILE KARKI STRESSED TO ME THE NEED FOR CONSISTENCY WITH LAST YEAR'S RECORD, IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE REAL NEPALESE HANGUP ON THE CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE IS THE NEPALESE FELT NEED TO STAY IN TUNE WITH ITS TWO GREAT NEIGHBORS, BOTH OF WHOM ARE FLATLY PRO-GRUNK. CAUGHT AS THEY ARE IN THE THROES OF A FROSTY, TOUGH INDIAN REACTION TO THE NEPALESE VIEW OF THE SIKKIM AFFAIR, THE NEPALESE ARE CURRENTLY FEELING THIS COMPULSION OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICY EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAN IN THE PAST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KATHMA04407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740307-0582
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741011/aaaaaimh.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 233840; B. STATE 220123; C.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPRESENTATION AT 29TH UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, CB, NP, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005